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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A catalyst for purifying an automotive exhaust gas comprising catalytic metal particles of one or more catalytic metals supported on a porous carrier, wherein the catalytic metal particles consist essentially of ~~made of one or more metal oxides~~ an alloy of two precious metals selected from platinum, palladium, and rhodium, wherein the porous carrier consists essentially of ~~is made of an oxide containing a rare earth oxide, ceria-zirconia having a ceria content of from 15 wt% to 48.2 wt%, wherein the porous carrier has a specific surface area of 10 to 250 m<sup>2</sup>/g for 1 wt% of an amount of catalytic metal supported relative to the whole catalyst, and that wherein the catalytic metal particles are made of one or more transition metals or transition metal oxides having have from 10 to 50000 atoms, and wherein the precious metals form single particles.~~

2. (ORIGINAL) The catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the catalytic metal particles are supported as a single layer or multiple layers having a thickness of 1 to 5 atoms in an oxidizing atmosphere.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The catalyst according to claim 2, wherein at least one kind of the catalytic metal particles on the carrier ~~is made of a complex oxide of a rare earth element and a transition metal element~~ forms a complex oxide comprising a precious metal of the particles and a ceria of the carrier.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A product formed by reducing the catalyst according to claim 2, the catalyst comprising granular catalytic metal particles having a particle size of 1 to 10 nm supported on a porous carrier.

5-8. (CANCELLED)

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A product formed by reducing the catalyst according to claim 3, the catalyst comprising granular catalytic metal particles having a particle size of 1 to 10 nm supported on a porous carrier.

10-20. (CANCELLED)